

**Rational
Pharmaceutical
Management Plus
Participation in the
PMI Implementing
Partners Meeting,
Uganda, April 12-
13, 2006:**

Trip Report

Management Sciences for Health
is a nonprofit organization
strengthening health programs worldwide.



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US Agency for International Development
Strategic Objective 5

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About RPM Plus

The Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus (RPM Plus) Program, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (cooperative agreement HRN-A-00-00-00016-00), works in more than 20 developing countries to provide technical assistance to strengthen drug and health commodity management systems. The program offers technical guidance and assists in strategy development and program implementation both in improving the availability of health commodities—pharmaceuticals, vaccines, supplies, and basic medical equipment—of assured quality for maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases, and family planning and in promoting the appropriate use of health commodities in the public and private sectors.

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Acronyms

ACT	Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies
AED	Academy for Educational Development
AFFORD	USAID funded bilateral
AFRO	World Health Organization Africa Regional Office
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CCP	Center for Communications Programs
CDC	US Centers for Disease Control
GFATM	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria
HCP	Health Communication Partnership
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IPTp	Intermittent Preventive Treatment in Pregnancy
IRS	Indoor Residual Spraying
ITM	Insecticide Treated Materials
ITN	Insecticide Treated Nets
JHU	John Hopkins University
JSI	John Snow Incorporated
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAC	Malaria Action Coalition
MEMS	Monitoring and Evaluation Management Systems
MIP	Malaria in Pregnancy
MMSS	Malaria Medicines Supply Service
MoH	Ministry of Health
MSH	Management Sciences for Health
NMCP	National Malaria Control Program
PMI	Presidents Malaria Initiative
REDSO	Regional Economic Development Services Office
RPM Plus	Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus
RTI	Research Triangle Institute
TA	Technical Assistance
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission on Refugees
UPHOLD	Uganda Program for Human and Holistic Development
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USP	United States Pharmacopoeia
WHO	World Health Organization

Background

Management Sciences for Health's (MSH) Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus (RPM Plus) Program has received funds from USAID to develop strategies to implement malaria policies and to provide technical assistance in pharmaceutical management issues for malaria. RPM Plus is a key technical partner in the USAID Malaria Action Coalition (MAC), a partnership among four technical partners: The World Health Organization (WHO), working primarily through its Africa Regional Office (AFRO), the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the ACCESS Program of JHPIEGO and RPM Plus.

RPM Plus has been working to improve pharmaceutical management for malaria in countries in Africa by identifying and addressing the causes of poor access, ineffective supply, and inappropriate use of antimalarials. RPM Plus has developed and applied tools to assess pharmaceutical management for malaria and has worked to provide technical assistance to countries by working with policymakers, researchers, managers, and providers in the public and private sectors to implement new and proven interventions. Significant among these interventions are Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies.

The USAID Uganda mission has been in discussions with RPM Plus regarding support to the Ministry of Health for malaria control. The mission has developed a PMI Uganda Country Action Plan for Year-One (FY 2006) country and has selected RPM Plus as one of its program implementing partners. Within the FY06 scope of work, RPM Plus will support and strengthen the distribution systems for distribution of GFATM nets to children under 5, pregnant women, and people already experiencing weakened health, such as HIV/AIDS patients. In addition, RPM Plus will provide payment to the National Medical Stores for handling and distribution of USAID/PMI funded Coartem treatment doses and support to overcoming the challenges in the pharmaceutical management system necessary to roll-out ACTs under the direction of the national malaria control program (NMCP). Whilst providing technical assistance to the roll-out process, additional RPM Plus support will be provided to ensure the rational use of the selected expensive national first-line treatments.

Under the auspices of USAID/Uganda, a meeting of PMI Implementing partners was planned for Thursday April 13, 2006 in Kampala, Uganda. The meeting was to bring together all implementing partners to strategize, coordinate and plan out their activities for the year. Partners expected to be at the meeting were RPM Plus, JHU/CCP-AFFORD, JSI-UPHOLD, AED-NetMark, MSI-MEMS, RTI-IVM, JHU/CCP-HCP, WHO, USP, and CDC.

Purpose of Trip

Gladys Tetteh and Elizabeth Njoroge of the RPM Plus regional office in Nairobi, Kenya traveled to Kampala, Uganda to attend the PMI Implementing partners meeting. RPM Plus provided information as needed to the meeting discussions and established institutional relationships with other implementing partners present.

Scope of Work

- Meet with USAID/Uganda and PMI Implementing Partners to discuss strategies and plan activities for FY06
- Provide an arrival briefing and /or departure debriefing to USAID upon request

Activities

Meet with USAID/Uganda and PMI Implementing Partners to discuss strategies and plan activities for FY06

The PMI Implementing Partners meeting was held at the USAID offices in Kampala. The meeting was chaired by Margot Ellis, USAID Uganda Mission Director and PMI coordinator. Partner present at the meeting included MSH/RPM Plus, JHU/CCP-AFFORD, JSI-UPHOLD, AED-NetMark, MSI-MEMS, RTI-IVM, JHU/CCP-HCP, WHO and CDC. USP was not represented at the meeting. An overview of the President's Malaria Initiative and a description of the Uganda PMI year one planned activities were provided by Dr. Jessica Kafuko, USAID. The plan had been approved by the United States Government (USG) PMI steering group in December 2005. Development of the plan was guided by recommendations from the country coordinating mechanism and feedback from stakeholders.

An update was provided on progress to date and ideas for operational research were shared by Linda Quick of CDC.

MEMS, the Monitoring and Evaluation Management Systems responsible for USAID monitoring presented an M& E framework, Draft PMI indicators and a spreadsheet for performance monitoring by implementing partners. Extensive discussions were held around the need to integrate USAID planned M& E into the Ministry of Health overall monitoring framework for malaria as it would be mutually beneficial to the MOH and USAID.

Reporting requirements were clarified and program management arrangements were elaborated upon. Ideally, implementation will start in April/May 2006. To ensure a fast start, the Global Health Bureau has agreed to forward fund activities by RTI/IVM, WHO, UPHOLD, RPM Plus.

PMI Governance structures at Washington and country level were shared and CTOs and Activity manager assignments indicated. MSH RPM Plus has Annie Kaboggoza-Musoke as its activity manager and Toni Boni and Kama Garrison as its CTOs. Funds will be obligated soon for other activities.

A joint USG and Government of Uganda Meeting is planned for May 11, 2006 in Kampala. It is expected that all PMI implementing partners will be present at the meeting as they will be required to make a presentation to the Director General on activity progress.

Provide an arrival briefing and /or departure debriefing to USAID upon request

A brief meeting was held with Annie Kaboggoza-Musoke. She encouraged that RPM Plus advertise the Senior Technical Advisor position in the Uganda local dailies as well as in the East African paper. This would increase the chances for qualified Ugandan citizens to apply to the position. Planning for year 2 activities are scheduled to take place in June/July 2006.

Annie Kaboggoza-Musoke will provide support to the presentation development by RPM Plus for the scheduled May 11th meeting in Kampala.

Next Steps

Immediate Follow-up Activities

- Submission of revised SOW for RPM Plus under the PMI
- Advertisement of revised job description for RPM Plus Senior Technical Advisor position in Uganda local dailies (Vision) and regional papers (East African). USAID would like to be informed when this is achieved
- Receipt of applications and recruitment of Senior Technical Advisor for RPM Plus (Uganda)
- Establishment of RPM Plus office space for Senior Technical Advisor
- Continued technical assistance provision by RPM Plus to the Uganda National Malaria Control Program under USAID/REDSO regional funding

Annex 1. Agenda for PMI Implementing Partners Meeting

Thursday April 13, 2006

9:00 – 9:15	Welcome	Margot Ellis, Mission Director/PMI Coordinator
9:15 – 9:45	Overview of PMI	Jessica Kafuko, USAID/Uganda
9:45 -10:15	Description of Year 1 Plan	Jessica Kafuko, USAID/Uganda
10:15 -10:45	Progress to Date	Jessica Kafuko, USAID/Uganda Linda Quick, CDC
10:45 – 11:00	M&E plans	MEMS Linda Quick, CDC
11:00 – 11:30	Q and A	All
11:30 – 12:00	Next Steps and Closing	Margot Ellis, Mission Director/PMI Coordinator